### He is There and He is Not Silent

The Moral Necessity





Francis A. Schaeffer



HE IS THERE AND

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DOES IT MAKE SENSE TO BELIEVE IN GOD?



#### **Review - Four Possible Answers**

Something is There

Rational Answer?

No: All is Silent

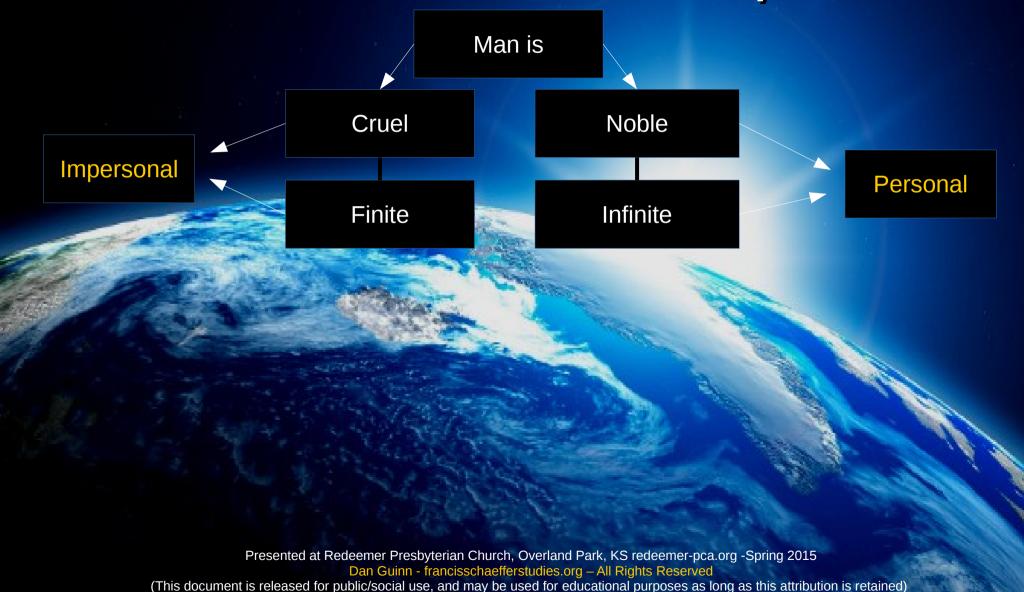
Impersonal

Yes: Out of Nothing

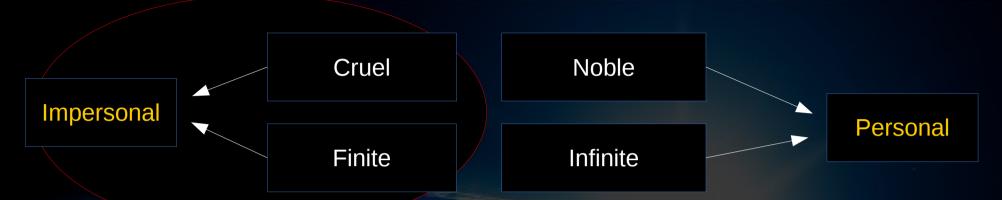
Yes: Impersonal Beginning

Yes: Personal Beginning

# The Moral Necessity

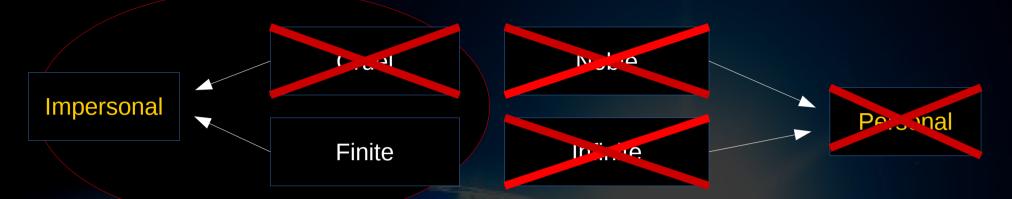


#### Mankind in Tension



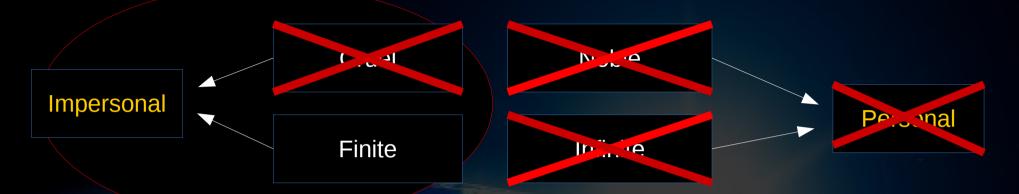
"...we must notice something. If we accept the impersonal beginning, finally we will come to the place where man's finiteness and his cruelty become the same thing. This is an absolute rule." ~ Francis Schaeffer, *He is There and He is Not Silent* 

#### **Morals Disappear**



"With an impersonal beginning, everything is finally equal in the area of morals. With an impersonal beginning, eventually morals is just another form of metaphysics, of being. Morals disappear, and there is only one philosophic area rather than two." ~ Francis Schaeffer, *He is There and He is Not Silent* 

#### Morals Do Not Exist As Morals



"With an impersonal beginning, morals really do not exist as morals. If one starts with an impersonal beginning, the answer to morals eventually turns out to be the assertion that there are no morals" ~ Francis Schaeffer, *He is There and He is Not Silent* 

## **Moral Motions**

Define Good!

Are you having a "good" day?

"Man has a feeling of moral motions; yet in the universe as it is, his feeling is completely out of line with what is there. You may ask why I use the term "moral motions." I choose the term simply because I am not talking about specific norms. I am talking about the fact that men have always felt that there is a difference between right and wrong. All men have this sense of moral motions." ~ Francis Schaeffer, *He is There and He is Not Silent* 

"...if you begin with the impersonal, in the universe as it is, there is no place for morals as morals. There is no standard in the universe which gives final meaning to such words as right and wrong. If you begin with the impersonal, the universe is totally silent concerning any such words." ~ Francis Schaeffer, He is There and He is Not Silent

## God or the Devil?



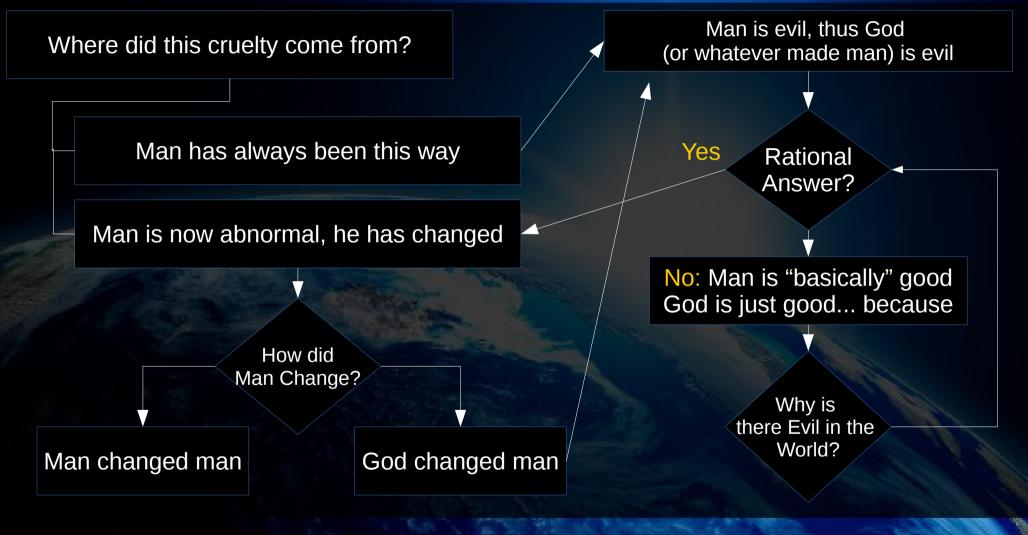
"if there is a God,he is the Devil."~ Charles Baudelaire

# Change vs. God



"Now Camus dealt with the same problem from a slightly different viewpoint. He argued that if there is a God, then we cannot fight social evil, for if we do, we are fighting God who made the world as it is. What these two men say is irrefutable if we accept the basic premise that man stands where he has always stood—that there has been a continuity of intrinsic cruelty." ~ Francis Schaeffer, *He is There and He is Not Silent* 

# The Origin of Man's Cruelty



# Statistical Morality & Abuse Thereof



"The only unnatural sex act is that which you cannot perform." ~ Often Attributed to Alfred Kinsey Reportedly had sexual relations with both male and female members of his staff during his studies. "Males do not represent two discrete populations, heterosexual and homosexual. The world is not to be divided into sheep and goats. Not all things are black nor all things white. It is a fundamental of taxonomy that nature rarely deals with discrete categories. Only the human mind invents categories and tries to force facts into separated pigeon-holes. The living world is a continuum in each and every one of its aspects. The sooner we learn this concerning human sexual behavior, the sooner we shall reach a sound understanding of the realities of sex." ~ Alfred Kinsey (sexologist, entomologist and zoologist)

# Naturalistic Morality



#### Marquis de Sade

- "All universal moral principles are idle fancies."
- "Your body is the church where Nature asks to be reverenced."
- "There is no God, Nature sufficeth unto herself; in no wise hath she need of an author."
- "In order to know virtue, we must first acquaint ourselves with vice."
- "'Sex' is as important as eating or drinking and we ought to allow the one appetite to be satisfied with as little restraint or false modesty as the other. "
- "To judge from the notions expounded by theologians, one must conclude that God created most men simply with a view to crowding hell."
- "Social order at the expense of liberty is hardly a bargain"

The Marquis de Sade was a wealthy French aristocrat, philosopher, politician and what today we would call a sociopath. He held the rank of Colonel in the military and held office, having been elected to the French National Convention. He was known to have lured numerous prostitutes into his company and then poisoned and sodimized them against their will. Once he is known to have lured a woman into his home under false pretenses of work and then tore her clothes off and tortured her, making incisions in her body and then pouring hot wax into her cuts. Thankfully, she escaped. He was imprisoned numerous times for his exploits, both for his action and his authorship of erotic books.

## Furious

- "Modern man has no real basis for fighting evil, because he sees man as normal" ~ Francis Schaeffer, He is There and He is Not Silent
- "Whereas the impersonal beginning leads us to a merging of morals and metaphysics, the personal beginning
  provides the possibility of keeping them separate. In other words, man's finiteness may be separated from his
  cruelty." ~ Francis Schaeffer, He is There and He is Not Silent
- "God did not make man cruel, and He did not make the results of man's cruelty. These are abnormal, contrary to what God made, and so we can fight the evil without fighting God." ~ Francis Schaeffer, He is There and He is Not Silent
- "In another of my books, I have used the account of Jesus before the tomb of Lazarus. To me, what Jesus did at the tomb of Lazarus sets the world on fire—it becomes a great shout into the morass of the twentieth century. Jesus came to the tomb of Lazarus. The One who claims to be God stood before the tomb, and the Greek language makes it very plain that he had two emotions. The first was tears for Lazarus, but the second emotion was anger. He was furious; and he could be furious at the abnormality of death without being furious with Himself as God. This is tremendous in the context of the twentieth century. When I look at evil—the cruelty which is abnormal to that which God made—my reaction should be the same. I am able not only to cry over the evil, but I can be angry at the evil—as long as I am careful that egoism does not enter into my reaction. I have a basis to fight the thing which is abnormal to what God originally made.

The Christian should be in the front line, fighting the results of man's cruelty, for we know that it is not what God has made. We are able to be angry at the results of man's cruelty without being angry at God or being angry at what is normal."

### Discussion

- Can mankind say that man is basically good and yet complain about all the evil in the world?
- What should we say about evil in the world?

### **Questions/Discussion**